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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,907	06/14/2006	Zenhua Yu	NL03 1491 US1	4999

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EXAMINER

IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3765

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/07/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/582,907	Applicant(s) YU, ZHENHUA	
	Examiner Ismael Izaguirre	Art Unit 3765	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 and 8-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/18/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

CLAIMS

Summary

Claims 2, 3 and 8 are the independent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 4-6 and 9-14 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 3, 4, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bacon et al. (1,380,415).

Bacon et al. teach a steam iron including a soleplate 15 which has a surface which touches or presses against the material being ironed and an embossed area 23 which has a surface which is at a higher level or spaced from the surface contacting the material being ironed and functions a steam distribution chamber for passing steam to the material being ironed. Above the embossing are located areas with higher surfaces at 13 and another with roof canopy 14 which include heating elements 16 and 12a. The

two heating elements are provided each for heating the soleplate and the steam producing chamber and are provided in the raised areas.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 9, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacon et al. in view of Little (2,272,226).

Bacon et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Bacon et al. teach a steam iron including a soleplate 15 which has a surface which touches or presses against the material being ironed and an embossed area 23 which has a surface which is at a higher level or spaced from the surface contacting the material being ironed and functions a steam distribution chamber for passing steam to the material being ironed. Above the embossing are located areas with higher surfaces at 13 and another with roof canopy 14 which include heating elements 16 and 12a. The two heating elements are provided each for heating the soleplate and the steam producing chamber and are provided in the raised areas. While Bacon et al. teach at least one heating element

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including a flattened portion in the shape of "D". Bacon et al. do not suggest completely flattened heating tracks.

Little teaches a steam iron including a soleplate being heated by at least one electrical heater. The at least one heater further includes flattened resistive tracks 20 and 23.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the heater(s) of flattened heating tracks. Providing such heating tracks would allow the iron to have a reduced height steam producing chamber which would allow more room for a larger water tank.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bacon et al. in view of Dawson (2,792,652).

Bacon et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed. See above for specific explanations of the structural details of this document. Briefly, Bacon et al. teach a steam iron including a soleplate 15 which has a surface which touches or presses against the material being ironed and an embossed area 23 which has a surface which is at a higher level or spaced from the surface contacting the material being ironed and functions a steam distribution chamber for passing steam to the material being ironed. There are perforated plates located below the embossed area for passing the steam produced to the material being ironed. However, Bacon et al. do not suggest providing a screen covering the bottom side of the embossed area.

Dawson teaches a steam iron including an embossed area which comprises the steam producing area and is covered by a screen 7 which is removably attached by a screw 18.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to construct the embossed area of Bacon et al. as including a wire screen. Providing this would assure the steam is spread and applied to the material being ironed in a uniform manner.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Izaguirre whose telephone number is (571) 272-4987. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Welch can be reached on (571) 272-4996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ismael Izaguirre/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3765

II
8/12/2008